

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Of these pending claims, Claims 1-20 stand rejected. By way of this paper, Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, 18, and 19 have been amended; Claims 7, 10, and 17 have been cancelled; and new Claim 21 has been added herein.

The foregoing amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding office action, and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Formal Drawings

Formal drawings are being submitted herewith. No amendments to the drawings have been made by way of this paper. Applicants request consideration and approval of the formal drawings by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-12 and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by the Schwiebert et al. ('668) reference.

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by the Frank ('333) reference.

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by the Steele ('292) reference.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly point out that the heater is operatively associated with the media support through a conductive path operable to conduct heat from the heater to the media support. Support for this amendment can be found on at least page 6, lines 5-10; and page 7, lines 10-12, of Applicants' specification. Applicants submit that the prior art cited above does not disclose this feature.

In this regard, Applicants submit that the Schwiebert et al. ('668) reference discloses a printer having two heating sources, a preheater 72 and a radiant heater 108. Preheater 72 is positioned around features 142 (col. 7, lines 59-61) and forms a paper travel path with multi-purpose paper path component 70 (col. 5, lines 3-14). When paper 90 enters the paper travel path, it first encounters component 70 (and is spaced apart from preheater 72). As the paper continues along the paper travel path, it is forced against preheater 72 by flexible bias guide

150 (col. 6, lines 50-66). As such, it can not be said that the heater (preheater 72 from the Schwiebert et al. ('668) reference) is positioned spaced apart from a second surface of a media support (component 70), the second surface of the media support being located between the heater and a first surface of the media support with the first surface defining a media travel path.

Heater 108 generates radiant heat (col. 10, lines 20-25) to heat area 104B (col. 9, lines 8 and 9). In contrast, Applicants' invention conducts heat from a heater to a media support. As such, it can not be said that the heater (heater 108 from the Schwiebert et al. ('668) reference) is operatively associated with the media support through a conductive path operable to conduct heat from the heater to the media support. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

The remainder of the claims being dependent from Claim 1 are considerable patentable for at least the same reasons as set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of Claim 1. It is noted that Claims 4-6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, and 18 have been amended in order to maintain consistency with amended Claim 1.

Independent Claim 19 has been amended to more clearly point out that each of the plurality of heater extensions is in contact with the media support and each of the plurality of heater extensions are operatively associated with one of the plurality of heaters, wherein heat generated by the plurality of heaters is conducted to the curved surface of the media support through the plurality of heater extensions. Support for this amendment can be found on at least page 6, lines 5-10; and page 7, lines 10-12, of Applicants' specification. Applicants submit that the prior art cited above does not disclose this feature.

In this regard, Applicants submit that the Frank ('333) reference discloses applying heat to a glass sheet using a furnace 12 with the heat being applied from a gas burner or an electrical radiant heater (col. 4, lines 61-64). Conveyor rollers 18 transport the glass sheet (col. 4, lines 64-67). As the heat is supplied from a gas burner or an electrical radiant heater, the heat is transferred to the glass sheet by convection or radiation. In contrast, Applicants' invention conducts heat from a heater to a media support through a conductive path, for example, a heater extension. As such, it can not be said that the Frank ('333) reference discloses that each of the plurality of heater extensions is in contact with the media support

and each of the plurality of heater extensions are operatively associated with one of the plurality of heaters, wherein heat generated by the plurality of heaters is conducted to the curved surface of the media support through the plurality of heater extensions. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of Claim 19 is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 20 includes the feature of conducting heat from a source of heat through an extension to a surface of a support, the surface of the support being contactable with an article. Applicants submit that the prior art cited above does not disclose this feature.

In this regard, Applicants submit that the Steele ('292) reference discloses a heating station 31 that includes a radiant heater 43 (Fig. 2; col. 6, line 61 through col. 7, line 15). Alternatively, a radiant heater 47 can be provided at a loading station (Fig. 3; col. 7, lines 18-30); air can be heated (col. 7, lines 37-43); or a platen can be heated (col. 7, lines 44-47). In contrast, Applicants' invention includes conducting heat from a source of heat through an extension to a surface of a support, the surface of the support being contactable with an article. As such, it can not be said that the Steele ('292) reference discloses this feature of Applicants' invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of Claim 20 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Schwiebert reference in view of the Hudson ('509) reference.

Claims 13-15 depend from Claim 1. Applicants submit that the amendment of Claim 1 obviates the rejection of Claims 13-15 stated above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of Claims 13-15 is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-20 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-18 of U.S. Patent application Serial No. 10/753,245. In order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, Applicants are enclosing herewith a

Terminal Disclaimer and the appropriate fee in order to overcome this rejection. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

New Claim

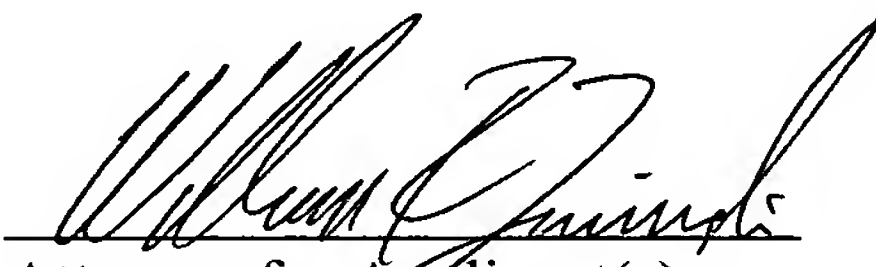
New Claim 21 depending from Claim 6 has been added herein. Support for the addition of Claim 21 can be found on at least page 7, lines 21-30, of Applicants' specification. Claim 21 includes the feature of the media support having a thickness, the extension having a length, wherein a ratio of the length of the extension to the thickness of the media support is greater than 1. Applicants submit that none of the prior art cited above disclose this feature. Accordingly, Applicants request allowance of Claim 21.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned in the event that a phone interview will expedite prosecution of this application towards allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 45,287

William R. Zimmerli/tt
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: 585-588-2758
Facsimile: 585-477-4646

If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.

Amendments to the Drawings:

Replacement sheets representing formal drawings of Figures 1 through 8 are being submitted herewith. No amendments to the drawings have been made by way of this paper. Applicants request consideration and approval of the formal drawings by the Examiner.

Enclosures: Replacement Figures 1 through 8